

Some alternative designs for moth traps may be found at www.itb.u-net.com/leps/moth.htm, whilst the two main entomological suppliers can be contacted at www.angleps.btinternet.co.uk/main.htm (Anglian Lepidopterists' Supplies) and www.watdon.com (Watkins & Doncaster).

For societies, you can find the Amateur Entomologists' Society at www.theaes.org, and their junior branch, The Bug Club, is to be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/bugclub. The British Entomological & Natural History Society is at www.benhs.org.uk and Butterfly Conservation is at www.butterfly-conservation.org, providing comprehensive links to statutory & non-statutory governmental bodies, NGOs and other groups. The Wildlife Trusts are located at www.wildlifetrust.org.uk, where you will find a list of the phone numbers and e-mails of the individual county Trusts at page www.wildlifetrust.org.uk/local.htm – an invaluable resource for anyone seeking permission to record insects on Trust nature reserves.

At the international level, find the SEL (Societas Europaea Lepidopterologica) at www.zmuc.dk/entoweb/sel/sel.html. The SEL was founded in 1976 with the aims of promoting collaboration among the lepidopterists of Europe, Western Asia and North Africa, and of promoting conservation of Lepidoptera and their habitats. The Society now has in excess of 700 members and is well worth the support of British Lepidopterists.– COLIN W. PLANT, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: colinwplant@netscapeonline.co.uk).

Unseasonable Stag Beetles

Mr K. C. Lewis recently found two male stag beetles (*Lucanus cervus* (L.)) on his garden path at Welling, north-west Kent, where the insect is frequent. The remarkable feature of these finds is the time of year: the first was picked up dead on 22.iv.2001; the body-cavity was found to be hollow. The second, alive, occurred within three feet of the first; all but one of its legs were incomplete.

The question at once arises: what were they doing out in the open so early in the year? The normal time of appearance in this district is late June and July. May records are doubtless not unknown, at all events in forward years which this most certainly is not, at least as regards temperature which might hasten development. Spring rainfall here has reached record levels, but it is hard to see how that might affect the issue.

I feel sure that these beetles were not lately emerged, but survivors from last year's brood. Whilst it is highly unusual to meet with specimens much after August, single beetles have occasionally been dug up alive in autumn or even winter – as is also the case with another beetle of comparable bulk, namely *Prionus coriarius* (L.). The condition of the above two *L. cervus* strongly suggests that they had hibernated, and perhaps been dug up by a cat or fox.

During the period 1998-2001, Mr Lewis has noted 25 specimens (seven of them females) from two lime stumps in the vicinity, the trees having been snapped off in the great storm of October 1987.– A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.